

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS-LETTER

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ROBERT FANGMEIER TO SOCIAL WELFARE STAFF

By authorization of the board of trustees of The United Christian Missionary Society, Robert Fangmeier has been called to part-time service on the staff of the department of Social Welfare as of October 1, 1947 as its Washington representative. Mr. Fangmeier will not maintain an office in the nation's capitol and will not undertake any administrative work on behalf of the department. His task is to serve as a liaison and resource person, keeping the department informed of matters in Congress and in various governmental departments which may be of interest to church people, making contacts with business, labor, religious, and other groups represented in the national capitol, and such other services as may be needed. He will write a weekly news letter which will be published under the title "Washington Round-Up," the first of which appears in this issue of *Social Action News-Letter*.

Mr. Fangmeier is well fitted for the task to which he has been called. He is a native of Cleveland, Ohio, where he was a member of the Highland Christian Church and was active in youth work of the city and the state, serving at one time as state CYF chairman. For many years he has been interested in a Christian approach to political life and served for a time on the staff of the Cuyahoga county clerk. During the war he was on the staff of the National Service Board for Religious Objectors in Washington, where he had daily contacts with Selective Service officials, army and navy officers, members of Congress, and many governmental departments. When Paul Comly French, executive secretary of the National Service Board became general manager of CARE, with headquarters in New York City, he asked Mr. Fangmeier to become CARE's liaison person with the State Department and its Committee on Voluntary Relief Agencies.

The selection of a Washington representative to keep the department informed on governmental matters of interest to the churches has been under consideration for some time. The pastors and state and national leaders who attended the Washington Workshop on World Order last March, after listening to the Washington representatives of other communions, voted unanimously to ask that the department take steps to see that the Disciples of Christ were represented. It is expected that eventually a council will be formed of Protestant church representatives the better to coordinate their activities. All correspondence relative to the work of the Washington representative should be directed to the department's Indianapolis office.

WORLD ORDER SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

The Department of Social Welfare calls attention of pastors and leaders of organized local church groups to the fact that by action of the biennial meeting of the Federal Council of Churches at Seattle last year, the observance of World Order Sunday was changed from the Sunday nearest to November 11 to the Sunday nearest October 24, the date of the inauguration of the United Nations Charter. The date this year is Sunday, October 26. The department will follow its usual custom of providing resource materials for pastors and church leaders. It is hoped that quantity orders for materials for use of local congregations will be sent directly to the Commission on a Just and Durable Peace, 297 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y. Churches and groups which find it inconvenient to observe the day on October 26 should use Sunday, November 9.

UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR NOVEMBER 3-6

On Monday night, November 3, 100 Disciples of Christ representing a cross section of local, state and national church leadership will gather at the Prince George Hotel in New York City to begin a 3-day seminar at the headquarters of United Nations at Lake Success, N. Y. The seminar will be sponsored by the Department of Social Welfare of The United Christian Missionary Society as a part of the Crusade for a Christian World Order and will be under the immediate direction of Dr. Walter W. Sikes, national director of peace and interracial understanding. Invitations have been sent to more than 300 persons in the East, South, and Middle West, with notice that the first 100 registrations will be accepted. Limitations on the size of groups that can be accommodated in U.N. meetings makes restriction of the delegation necessary. Persons who have not received invitations and who wish to attend should send in an application at once, using the form found on page 2 of this issue, with registration fee attached. Hotel reservations will be made by the Department of Social Welfare.

On Monday night the seminar group will hear an orientation lecture on the international situation by a qualified authority. On Tuesday morning the group will leave the hotel at 9 o'clock for Lake Success and Flushing, where the General Assembly and the Security Council will be in session. Administrative officials of U.N. will give the group further orientation on U.N. activities and will arrange for visits to organs in session. At 4 p. m. the group will return to New York where dinner will be served by one of the prominent churches of the city, with addresses and discussion periods to follow. On Wednesday the seminar group will again go to Lake Success and Flushing, where further opportunities will be provided for sitting in on the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Social and Economic Council, and other agencies which may be in session. Arrangements will be made for all delegates to visit sessions at both Flushing and Lake Success and to confer with administrative officials relative to information and services available to the general public. But most important of all will be the opportunity to see the men responsible for the work of United Nations in action and to sit in as auditors and see world cooperation in the actual process of functioning. It is expected that many of the top political leaders of the world will be in attendance on the sessions of the General Assembly and the Security Council where they will no doubt be speaking their mind on crucial world issues. At 4 p. m. the group will return to New York to attend the theatre — or failing that, for a free evening. On Thursday, the forenoon through luncheon will be devoted to review and evaluation of the experience, ending with a service of dedication at 2 p. m. The remainder of the day will be free.

The Department of Social Welfare will carry the cost of promotion, procurement of special lecturers, transportation to and from U.N. headquarters, and other incidental expenses. Delegates will pay a registration fee of \$5, of which \$2.50 will cover cost of a ticket to a socially significant stage play (or will be refunded if no suitable play is available). Delegates will provide their own transportation to and from New York, their hotel expenses, meals, and incidentals. It is estimated that expenses above transportation costs will be from \$30 to \$35 per person. Registrations will be accepted in the order received and vacancies occurring from last minute emergencies will be filled in the same order.

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS - LETTER

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WHAT COST LABOR ORGANIZATION?

James A. Crain

Only those Americans who have access to labor newspapers know the extent to which violence is still the pattern of labor relations in some areas of our country. The drive of the AFL and the CIO to organize the workers of the rapidly industrializing South has resulted in a revival of violence toward union organizers. The CIO News of August 25 reported that 21 persons connected with the CIO's Southern membership drive have been physically assaulted, the assaults running from beatings to being shot at and having cars set afire. It is charged that one Georgia textile mill superintendent attempted to run over a CIO organizer with his car. A recent case involved W. E. (Bill) Gupton, a CIO organizer working at Hogansville, Georgia. Gupton and his wife drove from Hogansville to LaGrange for dinner and a movie. Coming out of the restaurant he was attacked and beaten, suffering a fractured skull. His wife was slapped in the encounter. Sherman Dalrymple, former president of the United Rubber Workers and now secretary-treasurer of the CIO Organizing Committee was attacked and badly beaten at Gadsden, Alabama.

In two recent cases, however, the victims fought back. In the Gupton case, Charles H. Gillman, regional director of CIO, appealed to Governor M. E. Thompson to punish those responsible for the attack and the Governor ordered the State Bureau of Investigation to take up the case. The other was James P. Harden, national representative of the UAW-CIO, who was beaten at Elba, Alabama. Harden filed suit in the U. S. District Court against the mayor of the town, a manufacturer, and two other individuals, charging that they had hired men to beat him up. The leader of the thugs confessed under oath in an NLRB hearing that he had been paid \$50 by the accused to beat Harden and that he was to have been paid \$100 for running Harden down with an automobile.

UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR REGISTRATION

(Fill out and mail to Department of Social Welfare, 222 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis 7, Indiana, at once, with \$5 registration fee attached. Fee will be refunded if registration is not accepted.)

I wish to register for the United Nations Seminar at Lake Success, N. Y., November 3-6, 1947. Enclosed please find here-with my (check, money order, cash—specify which) to cover registration fee. I understand that the first 100 registrations will be accepted and that my registration fee will be returned if I am not accepted.

I plan to arrive in New York on*

(Specify date and hour of arrival)

me at the Prince George Hotel. I plan to leave New York on*

(Specify date and hour)

Name _____

Address _____

(Street and Number)

(City and Zone)

(State)

Church _____

*Preference will be given to registrants who plan to arrive on Monday and remain through Thursday noon.

WASHINGTON ROUND-UP

Robert Fangmeier

The second session of the 80th Congress will convene on January 2, 1948, unless a special session is called to consider foreign aid bills. A summary of pending legislation and the progress of bills now in the legislative mill is reviewed in the following paragraphs.

Universal Military Training. [H.R. 4278]

The War Department's universal military training bill was reported out of the House Armed Services Committee the last day before Congress recessed for the summer. The bill will go to the House floor for debate immediately after the recess if the Rules Committee acts favorably. There is little doubt that the House will make a vote on this bill one of its first items of business. Representatives in Washington of groups opposed to compulsory military training agree there is a good chance that the bill will pass unless religious, labor, and educational organizations usually opposed to conscription are extremely active before Congress reconvenes. There is also a possibility that the Senate Armed Services Committee will open hearings on the Senate version of the bill in December, so that early action is possible also in that body. It is hardly necessary to point out that December is an extremely inconvenient time for opponents of the bill. War Department spokesmen claim to have sufficient votes to pass the measure in the House and to have 25 Senators committed to support it. Only two Senators are reported in opposition.

The Marshall Plan.

No bill has been introduced. The proposal made by Secretary Marshall calls for U. S. support of a program for the rehabilitation of Europe. General Marshall is reported to favor a special session of Congress to deal with the problem, but as these lines are written no decision has been made. By the time these lines appear in print perhaps the question of a special session will have been settled. A 19-man House committee, headed by Representatives Christian A. Herter and Charles Eaton is studying conditions in Europe with the Marshall plan in mind. The committee will presumably introduce legislation to implement the proposals on its return.

Displaced Persons.

H. R. 2910 was introduced by Representative William G. Stratton of Illinois to admit 100,000 displaced persons per year for four years. This is in addition to present quotas. The Immigration and Naturalization subcommittee will continue hearings on this bill when Congress returns.

Fair Employment Practices.

S. 984, sponsored by Senators Ives (R.N.Y.), Saltonstall (R. Mass.), Chavez (D. N. M.), Downey (R. Calif.), Smith (R. N. J.), Murray (D. Mont.), and Meyers (D. Pa.), is still in the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee. This bill, designed to prevent discrimination in employment on account of race, creed, color, or national origin, was reported by a subcommittee to the full Labor Committee of the Senate. Senator Smith, one of the sponsors of the bill, tried to amend it to allow any state to exempt itself from the enforcement clause. According to A. Philip Randolph, co-chairman of the National Committee for a Permanent Fair Employment Practices Committee, this was the reason for the Labor Committee's failure to report the bill for action on the House floor.

Anti-Poll Tax.

H. R. 29 passed the House during last session by a vote of 290 to 112. This is the fourth time the House has passed such a measure. Each time the bill has been killed by a filibuster of Southern senators. The Senate Committee on Rules and Administration did not assign the bill to a subcommittee before recess.

Anti-Lynching.

Eleven bills have been introduced in the House and three in the Senate on this subject. No action has been taken on any of them. A discharge petition has been started by Representative Clifford P. Case to bring H. R. 3488 out of committee. The petition now has 69 of the required 218 signatures. In the Senate, S. B. 1352 has been introduced by Senators Wagner and Morse.

[Continued on Page 4]

ON SOCIAL FRONTIERS

It Happened in Georgia.

To encourage tobacco growers to bring their crops to local auction houses the merchants of Douglas, Georgia, arranged to give away prizes. Each farmer bringing in tobacco was given a ticket. At the end of the sales season, says the *Atlanta Journal*, a drawing was held before a throng of 7,000 persons. The first prize, a new Ford automobile, was won by Mack Carter, a Negro farmer. Second prize, a purse of money, went to Sam Glover, also a Negro. They received their prizes without quibble and without national publicity. And why not?

* * * * *

Old Men Shall Dream Dreams.

Representative Sabath (Dem., Ill.) 81-year-old dean of the House of Representatives, has come forward with a proposal that the federal government sponsor a national lottery as an outlet for what he calls "a national tendency of most Americans to gamble." He figures that a national lottery would net the government in the neighborhood of \$3 billion a year after deducting numerous fat prizes to winning ticket holders. Returns could be used to pay the national debt and to finance American aid to needy areas. Mr. Sabath, who has been beating the drum for a national lottery for years, fails to say who would provide the money for the prizes and the profits.

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Last Things First.

In 1946 the people of the United States spent the staggering sum of \$8,770,000,000 for intoxicating liquor, according to figures of the U.S. Department of Commerce. This is \$66.60 per capita. In 1945 the figures on public education supplied by the U.S. Office of Education for the fiscal school year ending June 30, 1945, showed \$2,639,000,000 spent for the education of American youth. This amounts to a per capita figure of \$12.13. On July 29 the *Denver Post* carried a story of the withdrawal of an application for a beer permit by John Krasovec of Pueblo after the county commissioners had received a petition from 80 children protesting the granting of the license. Said the children, "We consider it imposing on our safety and freedom to play in that part of town. We consider it a nuisance and a menace, and we ask our county commissioners to help us eliminate this hazard to our moral and physical well-being." (*From Clip-sheet*)

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Contribution to Understanding.

Those who are seeking a better understanding of American-Soviet relations will do well to read Dorothy Thompson's column "On the Record," for September 10. Citing the confusion that even experienced political writers confess, Miss Thompson insists that to understand our present confused international situation we must think in terms of principles. The Soviet Union, she says, is in the "epigonic" (later generation) stage of a violent messianic revolution, which she defines as Bonapartist, as related to the French Revolution. It is no longer revolutionary in the sense of Robespierre and Lenin, but is exporting revolution as did Napoleon. Its moves are instigated from the Soviet heartland, but are executed on the periphery through satellite states which are theoretically "sovereign." As "sovereign" states their acts do not involve the Soviet Union, unless Stalin decides that it is to his interest to become involved. Thus Yugoslavia, Albania, Hungary, Romania, or any other Soviet satellite may be pushed into action against some other power—say, Greece. If the action succeeds the Soviet purpose is achieved. If it becomes too dangerous the satellite can be compelled to back down without loss of Russian prestige. In short, Stalin has developed a procedure which permits him to exert pressure on any front without exposing the Soviet Union to danger. Against such a policy Miss Thompson thinks President Truman's "containment" program futile. Bonapartism, she says, cannot be halted on the periphery, but only at its center. The Truman Doctrine cannot be "unswerving" since by definition it is designed not to anticipate Soviet moves, but to meet them after they have been made. The inescapable conclusion from her argument is that we need a new foreign policy *Vis-A-Vis* the Soviet Union.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ATOMIC CONTROL?

To help answer that question the Division of Social Sciences of the University of Chicago has published a 43-page (plus cover) pamphlet entitled, "International Control of Atomic Energy." The pamphlet was prepared in cooperation with the editors of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, and consists of articles, state papers, reports, and summaries that have appeared in that publication. Writing in the Introduction, Dr. Robert Redfield, of the Division of Social Sciences, says, these papers "are the documents basic to understanding of the many developments that have occurred with regard to the control of atomic energy since President Truman first announced to the world that the new power had been used as a military weapon." Incidentally, Dr. Redfield announces that students using the pamphlet should first read Kant's "Perpetual Peace." The alternatives of the eternal peace of a common grave or the eternal peace of a living world are as relevant today as they were when first penned by the philosopher.

The Division of Social Sciences also recommends the pamphlet for general reading. Copies may be had from the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 1126 East 59th Street, Chicago, Ill.

RURAL OVERSEAS RELIEF PROGRAM LAUNCHED

CROP (Christian Rural Overseas Program) is the newest effort of Church World Service, Inc., to help meet the desperate hunger in war devastated areas this winter. The program came into being at the request of rural people who wanted an opportunity to share their material resources in kind with the needy of the hunger areas. Offices have been opened at 308 West Washington Street, Chicago.

A spring and summer campaign for contributions of wheat from the great wheat-producing states is being brought to a close with many carloads of the life-sustaining grain on their way to hungry peoples. Plans are now being laid for solicitations in the corn and soya bean areas and it is hoped that similar drives may be made in the cotton belt, the dried bean areas, and in other food-producing territories. Consideration is being given to the possibility of collecting other commodities such as wool, meat, harness, etc. Factors of personnel, means of handling and processing are problems not yet solved.

Mrs. Ruth D. Estes, national director of the church and community service of the Department of Social Welfare, has been loaned to Church World Service to organize these campaigns. The work in local areas is carried on largely by voluntary labor under the guidance of field personnel supplied by CROP.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR OVERSEAS RELIEF

Local church groups may secure from Church World Service, Inc., 37 East 36th Street, New York 16, N.Y., supplies of Christmas cards to be sold for overseas relief. The cards cost \$5 per 100, and can be re-sold at 10c each, the profit being credited to overseas relief. Cash must accompany the order.

The card is printed on a fine grade of paper and depicts the angels and the Holy Family over the little church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf-Salzburg, Austria, where the Christmas hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night" was first sung on Christmas Eve, 1818. The cards are beautifully colored and come complete with envelope for mailing.

Church groups can order the cards and put the profit in the treasury for the Week of Compassion, which comes early next year, or the money in \$10 sums or more can be sent at once to Unified Promotion, 222 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana for CARE packages and will be credited on your Week of Compassion goal if requested.

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CARE (Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe) has arranged to have requisition blanks for mailing CARE packages placed in banks and department stores throughout the nation. Millions of \$10 food packages, blankets and materials for clothing (woolens and cottons) have been sent to the needy in Europe through this non-profit organization set up by the relief agencies.

WASHINGTON ROUND UP [Continued From Page 3]

Anti-Jlm Crow Travel Bill.

H. R. 280, by Representative Adam Clayton Powell to amend the Interstate Commerce Act, has been referred to the House Interstate Commerce Committee.

Japanese-American Evacuation Claims.

H. R. 3999, authorizing the Attorney General to settle claims resulting from evacuation of Japanese-Americans from their homes, has passed the House. The Senate passed a similar bill in the 79th Congress, but the measure died when the House failed to act. It is expected that the Senate will again give approval.

Arming Latin America.

H. R. 3836, providing for arms standardization for Latin American countries with the U. S. furnishing the arms is now on the House calendar for action. The Senate has taken no action.

Military Missions.

H. R. 2313 allows the President to send military officers and enlisted men anywhere at his discretion, if requested to do by a foreign government. Reported out by the House committee; no action by the Senate.

International Organization.

H. J. Res. 161, by Representative Walter Judd, provides for U. S. Membership in the World Health Organization (WHO) of the U. N. Reported favorably by the House committee. A similar bill has passed the Senate. Two other measures to strengthen the United Nations are S. Concurrent Resolutions 23 and 24, the latter introduced by Senators Taylor, Chavez, Johnson, Murray, Pepper, and Tobey, asking the president to initiate a world conference for the purpose of developing a United Nations really capable of "enforcing and preventing war." (S.K.)

Universal Disarmament.

S. Con. Res. 32, by Senators Thomas (Utah) and Taylor, provides for "the renunciation of the use and development of the atomic bomb, . . . universal national atomic and all other disarmament by all states." Introduced on the last day of the session and referred to the Foreign Relations Committee.

Federal Aid to Education.

S. 472, by Senators Taft, Thomas (Utah), and others, appropriates \$300,000,000 per year for federal aid to the states for education. Article 6 of the Taft bill is the most controversial feature, since it would permit states to appropriate from these funds for support of parochial schools if present state funds are so appropriated.

School Health Services.

H. R. 1980 and S. 1290 are still in their respective committees. These bills provide funds to enable states to develop more adequate programs of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of physical and mental ailments of school children.

Health Insurance.

S. R. 1320 and H. R. 3548 would establish a compulsory health insurance system with decentralized control. Dealing with the same subject is S. 545, which provides for voluntary health insurance, with federal aid only to those unable to pay. All these bills are still in committee.

Department of Public Health and Welfare.

S. 140 would establish a department of health and public welfare with cabinet rank for its secretary. Reported favorably from committee and will be on the docket after recess. H. R. 573, a companion bill in the House has not been acted upon.

"DEAR BROTHER PASTOR"

This item is addressed especially to you. Church World Service, Inc., reports that libraries burned and bombed out in Europe and Asia are anxious to secure back copies of the following publications:

Christian Century
Journal of Religion

Christendom
Theology Today

In many an American pastor's study there are accumulations of back numbers of one or more of these publications that are seldom if ever used and which threaten to be the cause of a nervous breakdown to the pastor's wife who tries to keep the study clean. Why not bundle them up and ship them to Church World Service, New Windsor, Maryland? Perhaps you'd better write first, telling them what you have and asking for instructions.

COOPERATIVES UNDER CONGRESSIONAL ATTACK

James A. Crain

Since the adjournment of Congress the cooperative movement has been the target for a heavy barrage from a number of sources. Spearheading the attack is Rep. Walter Ploeser (R. Mo.), whose subcommittee has been a sounding board for anti-cooperative forces for several weeks. Incidentally, the *New Republic's* tally sheet on how Congressmen voted on 10 major social issues has Ploeser recorded on the negative side in all ten cases. The tally sheet of the *CIO News* on 12 issues of major interest to organized labor shows Ploeser voting "Wrong" or "Paired Wrong" on all except one of the issues, the single exception being a vote to support the anti-poll tax bill. George Seldes (*In Fact*, Sept. 1) denounces Ploeser's record as "one of the worst in Congress."

Back of the blast against the cooperatives there seems to be a good deal of support from groups like the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Tax Equality Association, and certain metropolitan newspapers, together with one or two radio commentators. Fulton Lewis, Jr., who has been especially vocal, is charged with having broadcast statements that co-op officials draw \$7,500 salaries and have unlimited expense accounts, that co-ops will sell only to members, that he had been compelled to join a co-op in order to buy feed for his farm, and that the co-op refused to pay his dividend in cash. The general manager of the Southern States Co-op, of which Lewis is a member, challenged him on all these counts, declaring that all his statements were either false or grossly misleading.

The immediate cause of the attack on the cooperative movement seems to have been a proposal submitted to the United Nations by the associated cooperatives of 28 nations, representing 93,500,000 members, for the control of oil for the prevention of war. On July 17, the 3-man agenda committee voted to place the proposal on the agenda. The efforts of the co-operators to take a hand in the dangerous international oil situation with a view to eliminating private profit seems to have set off the blast.

The immediate point of attack is taxation. Co-ops, say their enemies, enjoy a special tax exemption not available to private business. Co-op leaders deny this, insisting that cooperatives pay exactly the same taxes as do other forms of capitalistic enterprise. "Consumer co-ops pay the same income taxes, property and license taxes as ordinary business," says Wallace J. Campbell, of the Cooperative League. "They also pay corporation taxes, sales taxes, and excise taxes." They do not pay taxes on patronage dividends for the reason that these are savings which belong to members and as such are not subject to income taxes. Patronage dividends are subject to income taxes levied on the recipients. "This is the same right which is available to other business, which may return overcharges to its customers, if it wishes," says Mr. Campbell.

Farmer cooperatives are especially strong in the East, Middle West, and Northwest, and there are indications that politically-wise observers have warned party leaders that in attacking the co-ops they are alienating large blocks of farm votes. Farm Bureau cooperatives are especially strong in New York, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, the Dakotas, and in some parts of the South. Farmers are manufacturing their own fertilizer in large, modern plants, processing their own oil and gasoline, manufacturing their own tractors and farm implements, growing their own seeds, hatching their own chicks, and doing a thousand other things for their own service. The cooperative movement is a capitalistic private enterprise movement, differing from other forms of private enterprise only in that every customer is either actually or potentially a stockholder and that dividends are paid to the customers (after a nominal interest has been paid to the customers (after a nominal interest has been paid on capital) who made the profits possible. It is safe to predict that the war on the co-ops will fail, despite backing from the Hearst press, the NAM, the USCC, Mr. Fulton Lewis, Jr., and Rep. Ploeser.